AN APPENDIX TO THE Devout Communicant:

Containing more Particular

Directions and Meditations

FOR

The Time of Receiving

The Holy Communion;

WITH

A PRAYER Before and After.

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A Prayer at Home, Before the Sacrament.

O Eternally Bleſſed, and infinitely Glorious Lord God! *Thou* art greatly to be feared in the Aſſembly of thy Saints, and to be had in reverence of all that draw nigh unto thee. Look down from Heaven, the Habitation of thy Holineſs and Glory, in much Mercy, Pity, and tender Compaſſion upon *me*, a vile, ſinful, deſpicable *Creature*, proſtrate at thy *Foot-*

ſtool; unworthy to look up unto thy *Throne*, or to receive any thing at thy Hands, but thy Wrath and ſevere Diſpleaſure. I am leſs than the leaſt of all thy *Mercies*, and liable to the ſevereſt of thy *Judgments*, by reaſon of the Pollution and Sinfulneſs of my Nature, Heart and Life. I am of the degenerate Poſterity of fallen *Adam*; and have all the Powers, Faculties and Members of my Soul and Body defiled with Sin. I have *ſinned* in every Age, in every Relation, in every Condition, in every Employment of my Life. I have diſtruſted thy Word, diſregarded thy Calls, ſlighted thy Judgments, abuſed thy Mercies, turned thy Grace into Wantonneſs, rejected the tenders of thy Love, *reſiſted* the Motions of thy Holy Spirit, the Checks of my own Conſcience, and *followed* the *Motions* of my own evil Heart; I have diſhonoured thy Name, prophaned thy Sabbaths, polluted thy Ordinances, been unthankful for thy Benefits, impatient under Afflictions, unfaithful to my Promiſes, miſ-ſpent my

my Time, neglected my Duty, walked unanſwerable to thoſe multiplied Obligations laid upon me; broken all thy holy Commandments, by many and great Tranſgreſſions, made and judged my ſelf unworthy of everlaſting Life; * ſo that nothing might remain unto me, but a fearful looking for of Judgment and fiery Indignation to devour me.

* *Here mention your particular Failings.*

But thou delighteſt in *Mercy*, and not in the *Death of a Sinner*; art not willing any ſhould periſh, but that all ſhould come to repentance. Oh, take not Counſel of thy *juſt Indignation*; but of thy *native Goodneſs*, thy *ſatisfied Juſtice*. Wilt thou deſtroy *him* that preſents *himſelf* deſerving to be *puniſhed*, and *thy Son* to have *ſatisfied*? that deſires not to live, unleſs it be by the benefit of *thy Mercy* and *his Sufferings*? Wilt *thou* not *ſpare me* for thy Son, who *ſpareſt not* thy Son for me? Is there not enough in *his* Merits and Sacrifice, to expiate all my Sins, and to juſtifie my Perſon in thy ſight?

Oh, ſuffer not thy ſelf to be deprived of the Glory of my Forgiveneſs and Salvation, as well as my Creation and Redemption. Save me, whom thou haſt hitherto ſpared; and forgive me Eternal Death, which I have ſo often merited by my great *Offences*: bury *them* all in the bottomleſs Ocean of thy own Mercy and Forgetfulneſs, and my Saviour's Blood; lay *them* upon Him who is able to bear them, and cloath me with His Righteouſneſs that is able to cover me.

Oh, free me from the Guilt and Stain, the Power and Penalty, the Reign and Dominion of *Sin*, that nothing may ſeparate me from thy Love, nor from the ſenſible diſcoveries of it at thy Table. That I may be a meet and worthy Receiver, let thy *Holy Spirit* prepare, direct, and aſſiſt me. Take away my filthy Garments, my ſpiritual Filthineſs, and cloath me with the beſt Robe, *The Lord our Righteouſneſs*. Oh, think me worthy, for his ſake; and make me worthy, for thy Mercy's ſake. Deal not with me according

cording to my Deſerts, but thy great Goodneſs, and my great Neceſſity. Let me ſo *remember my Sins*, that thou mayeſt forget them; ſet them ſo before my Face, that thou mayeſt caſt them behind thy Back. Give me ſuch *a lively ſtedfaſt Faith* in Chriſt for *Forgiveneſs*, that thou mayeſt ſeal it up unto my Soul. Let me *love* him, and all his Members, with a pure Heart, fervently, at thy holy Communion, and ever after without diſſimulation. So enlarge my Soul with *ſpiritual Affections and Deſires*, that it may even break for the longings it hath unto that Ordinance, and unto thy Teſtimonies at all times. Remove far from me all blindneſs of Mind, hardneſs of Heart, unrelenting Affections, Deadneſs and Indiſpoſedneſs, Earthlineſs and Diſtraction, Irreverence, unbecoming Apprehenſions; whatſoever may hinder the Bleſſing and Efficacy of that Soul-nouriſhing, refreſhing Ordinance, thy gracious Preſence, my eternal Salvation. Create in me an underſtanding, heavenly, clean

Heart, O God; and renew an humble, contrite, right Spirit within me, prepared for thee. Oh, be not as a Stranger unto me; hide not thy ſelf from me; lift up the light of thy Countenance upon me. Let me feel the comfortable breathings of thy holy Spirit in my Soul at thy *Ordinance*; ſanctifie *it* to me, and me to receive *it* acceptably, with due Preparation and Apprehenſions, Reverence and Humility, Repentance and Faith, Love and Charity, Joy and Thankfulneſs, a deep ſenſe of thy inexpreſſible Love, and my own Unworthineſs.

And, Oh, that *all of us*, who this day approach thy Table, may ſo *eat his Fleſh*, which he hath given for the Life of the World, that we may live for ever; and ſo *drink his Blood*, that it may be to us for Remiſſion of Sins. *Meet* us not in our ſelves, in thy Juſtice, as a conſuming Fire; but a reconciled Father, in thy Righteous and Beloved *Son*, whom thou gaveſt, who gave himſelf for us when we were thy Enemies. Let us depart thence

thence more under the Power of thy Love and Grace, and under greater Reſolutions and Abilities to do thee faithful Service all our days, through *Jeſus Chriſt*, our Sacrifice and Redemption, Hope and Confidence, Surety and Advocate, the Food and Health; the Life and Salvation of our Souls; who hath taught us, when we pray, to ſay, *Our Father*, &c.

As ſoon as ever the Sermon *is ended, look towards the* Lord's Table, *and ſay,*

THis Sacrament I am going to, is a *ſtanding Memorial* of my Saviour's *Paſſion*, wherein he once offered up himſelf to God; and a *Sign* of that nouriſhing and ſtrengthening Grace, which he now offers me under the Notion of *Food*. It is the true Means and Inſtrument of conveying unto me thoſe Bleſſings, and ſignifies *that*, which by its proper Inſtitution it repreſents. *O that I may diſtinctly apprehend, rightly uſe, duely apply it to my own Soul.*

In the making and ordering of these Elements, see, consider (O my Soul) the heavy Pressures, Piercings, Pains and Sufferings of thy *Saviour*, from his Father, and wicked Men. The Malice and Violence of his Murtherers crucified him as a *Malefactor*, and the fiery Wrath of God made him a *Burnt-Sacrifice*; and under both these Sufferings he is become to me *Meat indeed*, and *Drink indeed*; the Stay and Support, the Comfort, Refreshment, and Life of my Soul, nourishing and preserving it to eternal Life.

That Bread and Wine could never sustain and nourish me, if the *one* had not fallen into the Earth, under the Sickle, the Flail, the Mill-stone, and the Fire; the *other* under the Hook and Press of the Husband-man; nothing less than the Cross, the Wounds, the Death of my Lord, my God, of his dearest Son made me a Saviour; and by this Sacrament assures me I shall be kept up and fed with a supply of all necessary Blessings, as certainly as he gives me to taste *that Bread and Wine*,

the ordinary means for preſerving my Life and Strength.

Whilſt *we Condemned Creatures* were paſſing on to our *Execution*, the Son of God looked upon us, and took *our Condemnation* upon himſelf; and under it died in our ſtead: Thus, by the Death and Satisfaction of this Sacrifice, *Juſtice* gave way to my Releaſe; God the *Father* forgave my *Sins*, and God the *Son* procured my *Life*.

Then fall upon your Knees with all imaginable Reverence, and ſay,

LET the Words of my Mouth, and the Meditation of my Heart, be acceptable in thy ſight, O Lord, my Strength, and my Redeemer.

Moſt Gracious God, who of thy great Goodneſs haſt ordained *this Ordinance* for a continual Remembrance of that ever-prevailing Sacrifice, which thy infinite Wiſdom and Love has appointed, and accepted upon the Croſs, for us vile, helpleſs, wretched Sinners; make us truly *ſenſible* of all our Offences

Offences againſt thee, and of his Love and Sufferings for us; and accept us in Him to the Praiſe of thy Grace. Rebuke all unſeaſonable Thoughts and Imaginations; ſtir up and act in us every Grace of thy Holy Spirit, and graciouſly entertain us; and grant we may *now* ſo behave our ſelves, that we may not provoke, but glorifie *thee*; be ſavingly Partakers of the *Redemption* we now commemorate, and be found and kept in the number of thy *Redeemed Ones* for ever.

BLeſſed Lord, who reviveſt by this ſacred Feaſt, the *Memory* of thy inexpreſſible Love, and of my Saviour's Sufferings; enable me, by Faith, ſo to apply his *Paſſion*, that healing Strength and ſaving Virtue may proceed from it; the Strength and ſweet Odour of whoſe *Oblation* is as fragrant, as ſavingly efficacious, as when firſt offered up unto thee. Enlighten my Underſtanding, prepare my Heart: Help, O help me, that I may *now* abate nothing of thoſe Affections that

are

are due unto Thee, and my Ever-bleſſed Redeemer. And let me obtain the Fruits and Benefits of his Death and Paſſion; even the Remiſſion of all my Sins, and the Fulneſs of all thy Graces. O bleſs me, and thine own Inſtitution unto me; and grant, that I may not encreaſe my Guilt, by abuſing of what thou offereſt me, but may receive a Bleſſing from thee.

HOly, Righteous Father, who ſeeſt nothing in me that is truly mine, but Duſt and Aſhes, and, which is worſe, ſinful Fleſh, polluted Blood; Oh, look upon ſome few Reſemblances of thine Image, ſome Rays and Beams of thy Spirit, ſome ſmall Beginnings of thy Grace, which are from thee, in me; and ſupply the Defects, with thy Mercy, Merits, and Sacrifice of thy Son. *Turn thine Eyes*, O merciful Father, *to his Satisfaction and Interceſſion*, who now ſits at thy Right-hand; to the *Seals of thy Covenant*, which lie before thee upon thy Table; and to all the Wants and Diſtreſſes which thou ſeeſt in my Soul; and

take

take this opportunity of glorifying thy Mercy, thy Son, and thy Grace, towards me, and upon me.

O Bleſſed Jeſus, ſo diſpoſe me by thy Grace and Holy Spirit, to feed ſpiritually and really upon that Sacrifice which thou offered'ſt *without the Gate*, and which this Sacrament ſets before me here in thy Court, that I may be admitted into that holy Place, which thy Sacrifice hath opened, and this Sacrament invites me to. And help me ſo to drink of this Fruit of the Vine, that I may drink it new in my *Father's Kingdom*; where I ſhall be delighted and refreſhed, and converſe with thee, without theſe typical Shadows and Repreſentations.

When the Miniſter is confeſſing Sin, and praying for the Efficacy of the Ordinance, let your Heart concurr with him, and put in your particular Failings, with their Aggravations, and the Mercies you in ſpecial need, which he omits. Proſtrate your Souls in the ſenſe of your own Vileneſs, and Neceſſities;

ceſſities; join with all earneſtneſs in his Confeſſions and Petitions, as one that knows the evil of Sin, and the need and worth of the Bleſſings he requeſts.

And let the ſolemn Conſecration of the Bread and Wine mind thee how thy Saviour was conſecrated and ſét apart for thy Salvation; and ſay,

HOW wonderful is thy Wiſdom and Love, O God, in our Recovery and Redemption! How juſtly mighteſt thou have dealt with us as with the fallen Angels, and leſt us to periſh without a Remedy! How ſtrangely doſt thou glorifie thy *Mercy* over thoſe *Sins*, that gave thee the advantage and occaſion to glorifie thy *Juſtice!* Even thou our God, whom we have offended and provoked eternally to ruine us, haſt, out of thine own Treaſure, ſatisfied thine own Juſtice; and given us a Saviour, by ſuch a Miracle of Wiſdom, Love and Condeſcenſion, as Men and Angels ſhall never be able fully to comprehend.

prehend. So did'ſt thou love the ſinful World, *as to give thy only begotten Son, that whoſoever believes in him, ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting Life.*

When you ſee the breaking of the Bread, and pouring out of the Wine, ſay,

O Hateful Sin! O wonderful Love! O dreadful Juſtice! O precious Sacrifice! O merciful Saviour! How gracious, Lord, haſt thou been to Sinners? How ſevere unto thy Son? How cruel have we been unto thee, and our ſelves? How ſmall a matter hath tempted me to *that*, which coſt ſo dear before *it* was forgiven?

I Cannot but *here* obſerve ſomething very like the *Sacrifice* and *Paſſion* of my dear Redeemer. *Thus* the Bread of Life was broken; *Thus* the Lamb of God was ſlain; *Thus* his precious Blood was ſhed; *Thus* his Father gave him once to die, and gives ſtill the virtue of his Death to bleſs and ſave every one that comes unfeignedly to Him.

While

While the Miniſter and others are Receiving before you, ſay,

WHO can ſufficiently admire and adore thee, moſt gracious God, for reconciling *us* unto thy ſelf? Vile Sinners, the Off-ſpring of ſinful Parents, thou treateſt us as familiar Friends, as dear Children. Thou mighteſt have brought *us* together hither for a *Sacrifice to thy Juſtice*, and behold *one* of thine own making for *us*, *the Son of thy Love*. We are unworthy of the leaſt crumb of our daily Bread; unworthy to tread upon thy Earth, to breath in thy Air, to lift up our Eyes to Heaven; and thou giveſt us Bread from Heaven, Liberty to tread thy Courts, thy Spirit to breath in our *Hearts*, leave to breath out our Requeſts unto *Thee*, O compaſſionate Father. And now, ſince *Love* will chuſe ſuch unworthy Gueſts, and *Mercy* be honoured upon ſuch Sin and Miſery; let that Mercy that invites us, make us acceptable, and graciouſly entertain us.

O *Author* of my *Salvation*, and of *those Mysteries* that expreſs it; the *Object* and *Truth* of what I am now going to receive; thou art as able to perfect me with thy Bleſſings and Graces from thy *Throne*, as thou wer't to redeem me by thy Sacrifice on thy Croſs. O perform in me, by thy Sufferings, what thou doſt exhibit and repreſent. By this thy Body broken, give me alſo Nouriſhment and Maintenance unto eternal Life. Look upon a poor Sinner at thy *Table*, as Thou didſt on him that hung by thy *Croſs*, and remember me now Thou art in thy Kingdom.

I Am *unworthy* of the *Crumbs* that fall from thy *Table*, of the *common* Mercies of Food and Rayment; much leſs, that thou ſhould'ſt come and ſup, and dwell with me: but ſeeing it is thy good pleaſure to vouchſafe me this Favour, O cleanſe me from all my Sins, that I may entertain thee in a pure, a ſanctified Heart. Make this unclean Habitation, that is ſo unfit to receive thee, a Temple for thy ſelf to dwell

in. Strengthen my Faith, assist me by thy Grace and Spirit; that I may fully rely upon thee, apply thy Sufferings unto me, and worthily receive thee.

O Thou that art the *Bread of Life* that cameſt down from Heaven, and giveſt Life unto the World; Enable me, while I am feeding upon theſe Elements, which repreſent unto me that univerſal, compleat Sacrifice propitiatory for the Sins of Mankind, by Faith to Feaſt upon, lay hold on, apply, and rejoice in the Satisfaction made by my Redeemer's Paſſion, until I find *my Soul* nouriſhed with Joy, Peace and Comfort which *it* draws from thence. Convey unto my Soul all the ſaving Benefits of that *great Expiation*. Let me with thy precious Body and Blood, receive ſuch Portions of thy holy Spirit, as may mortifie my worldly Affections and Corruptions, revive my dead Heart, comfort my dejected Mind, turn my Knowledge into Practice, and make that Practice eaſie and pleaſant unto me.

When the Minister gives you the Bread, think you here Christ say to you *in particular*;

[*Take, eat, this is my Body, which is broken for thee: This do in remembrance of me.*]

MY *Lord and my God!* didst thou offer up thy self for *me*, despicable, forlorn, wretched Sinner, as well as for any other? and do'st thou *now* give thy self unto me, and bid me *remember Thee*, the Redeemer of my Soul, the Author, the Object, and Truth of this Sacrament? I thankfully accept this Pledge of my Redemption: I humbly receive thee, with a troubled Heart that I can no better receive thee, entertain thee, love thee, remember thee, serve thee, express my Gratitude towards thee, and that I have so often offended Thee.

Now I know that thou lovest me, seeing *thou hast not with-held thy Son, thine only Son, from me*. By his Merits and Bloody Sacrifice, I hope to be received into the Fellowship of his Suffer-

Sufferings here, and into the Communion of his Glory hereafter.

BEhold *what manner of Love is this*; that God ſhould undergo the Cenſures, the Contempts, the Scorns, the Deriſions, the Deſpite, the Deteſtation of vile Man! ſuffer himſelf to be dealt with as a vile Miſcreant! that we might be exempted, not only from the Torment, but the Ignominy we had merited! That together with our Life, our Safety, our Liberty, we might recover that Honour we had forfeited and loſt! Be made a Curſe for us, that we might be redeemed from the Curſe of the Law, be freed from the exemplary Puniſhment due to our Tranſgreſſion of it! How Stupendious is that Goodneſs? What Obligation doth it lay upon us? that He ſhould be aſperſed with the worſt Crimes, cloathed with the fouleſt Shame, executed on a *Croſs* as a curſed Malefactor, for *us who were Enemies to him*; not commendable for any Goodneſs in us, but Traytors, Rebels againſt him! who deſerved nothing

from him, who acted ſo much againſt him! when he ſaw ſo plainly, and felt ſo throughly the horrible Blindneſs, the Folly, the Infidelity, the Ingratitude, the Incorrigibility, the ſtrange Perverſeneſs, the perfidious Malice and Cruelty of Mankind; all theſe ſurrounding, invading, diſcharging themſelves upon him; what Imagination can deviſe any Expreſſion of Love, Kindneſs and Friendſhip like this? That he ſhould leave the higheſt Happineſs, lay aſide the Majeſty and Felicity of God, for the Infamies and Dolours of a Croſs: expoſe himſelf to the greateſt Perils, endure the ſoreſt Pains, and moſt diſgraceful Ignominies, and in moſt hideous manner loſe his *Life* for *us*, that he might reſcue us from the greateſt Miſery, and inſtate and purchaſe for us Heaven and Glory.

SEeing *this lively Repreſentation* gives me ſo freſh a Remembrance of the *Love* and *Merit* of my Redeemer's Paſſion, I cloſe with him as the only foundation of all my Hope, as

the compleat Satisfaction for all my Sins. O! that I may no more depretiate the Worth, or diſparage the Efficacy of his Sufferings, by deſpairing of Mercy, or diſputing of his Love. How can I doubt of *thy Power* to ſave me, who haſt born the Sins of the whole World? or queſtion *thy Willingneſs*, who of thine own accord calleſt all unto thee? or ſuſpect *thy Sincerity* who art Truth it ſelf, and always in earneſt with poor Sinners? My Guilt makes me ready to flie from thee; but thy melting Voice, thy compaſſionate Nature, the matchleſs Inſtances of thy Love, encourage me to come to thee.

O What higher Kindneſs could God expreſs? What lower Condeſcenſion could he vouchſafe? By what Pledge could he more clearly, more ſurely teſtifie his Willingneſs and Delight to do us good, than by thus ordering *his own Son*, dear to him as himſelf, to undergo ſuch Miſeries for us? Such a *Puniſhment* hath been inflicted on him, to

expiate

expiate our Sins, as to content the moſt rigorous Severity. Such a *Price* laid down to redeem us from the Curſe as is abundantly ſufficient to diſcharge it. Such a *Sacrifice* offered, which God hath avowed for moſt available and acceptable to him. *Who is he that condemneth*, ſeeing *it is Chriſt that died?*

O How low was our Fall, when nothing leſs raiſed us than ſuch a depreſſion of God's only Son? How abominable muſt Sin be, which was not expiated without ſo coſtly a Sacrifice? How deplorable that Miſery, which needed ſuch a Succour to relieve it? How deſperate our Condition, which brought down from Heaven the Almighty Phyſician to cure us, by ſo coſtly a Medicine as his own Blood? How forlorn our Eſtate, which extorted from the moſt gracious God a Diſpleaſure needing ſuch a Reconciliation? And impoſed on the Lord of Glory a neceſſity to undergo ſuch a Puniſhment on our behalf? Surely, had our Guilt

Guilt been slight, had our Case been tolerable, had our Recovery been easie, the Divine Wisdom would have chose a cheaper, less precious Remedy. The Lord of Glory would not have so emptied and abased himself, made himself of no Reputation, endured such Pains and Ignominies, been so dealt with for our sakes, to rescue and ransom us from a dreadful Execution.

THis *is the Sacrifice*, the *Righteousness* in which I trust, and by which I am justified, and saved from the Curse of thy violated Law. As thou hast accepted it, O Father, for the World upon the Cross, behold it still, on the behalf of Sinners; and hear his Blood, that cries unto thee for Mercy to the Miserable; and for his sake, pardon us, and accept us as thy reconciled Children.

This was my doing: it was I, and such other Sinners, that deserved to bear the *Punishment*, who were guilty of the *Sin*. And can a *Murtherer* of *Christ*, be a small Offender? shall I ever have

have a dull, a lifeleſs apprehenſion of thy Love, or a favourable thought of Sin more? O that I may ſufficiently deteſt, and never more commit thoſe Offences, that delivered my Redeemer to death, that pierced my Saviour's Hands and Side, that crowned his Head with Thorns, and filled his Soul with Grief: did bring ſuch Torments, Diſgraces, Infamy upon him, in lieu of the Confuſion due unto us.

O Thou who in thine Anger revengedſt our *Sins* upon thy *Son*, in thy Mercy correct and deſtroy *them* alſo in *me*; and beſtow upon me ſuch a meaſure of thy Grace and Spirit, through which he offered himſelf without ſpot unto thee, as may ſanctifie for ever the Body and Soul which now I offer up unto thee; and help me to diſcharge the Service I promiſe unto thee. Let not ſo excellent a Price be paid in vain as to my Soul; ſo glorious an Offering want its due Effects upon me.

O Bleſſed Lord Jeſus, who haſt ordained this Myſtery for a Communion

munion of thy Body, for a Means of Advancement and Proficiency in Holineſs, and for an infallible Pledge of Eternal Salvation, which thou haſt purchaſed by thy Sufferings, and prepareſt thy People for, by thy Grace: make *this Ordinance* of a *true Sign*, an *effectual Means* of the ſame, that it may be efficacious to ſettle me in the Communion of thy Sufferings, which it ſheweth forth; to feed me with that living Bread which it *repreſents*; and to ſanctifie me for that eternal Happineſs which it *promiſes* and *ſecures*.

Take the Cup *from the Miniſter, as from* Chriſt, *ſaying to you,*

[*This is my Blood of the New Teſtament, which is ſhed for thee, for the Remiſſion of thy Sins.*]

O The depth of the Riches both of the Wiſdom and Knowledge of God! How unſearchable is his Goodneſs, and his Love paſt finding out? How haſt thou ſurpaſſed all humane Apprehenſions? What a matchleſs Gift is this, and unto what unworthy

Sinners?

Sinners? Will God ſtoop ſo low to Man? come ſo near him? and thus reconcile his provoking Enemy? Will he freely pardon all I have done? and take me into his Family, and Love? and feed me with the Fleſh and Blood of his Son? Such a guilty Soul might have expected the deſtroying Angel; that thou wouldeſt have charged upon me all my Sin and Folly. But while I condemned my ſelf, Thou haſt juſtified me, and given me the Seal of my Pardon, in the Blood of thy gracious Covenant; and ſurprized me with the ſureſt Tokens and Pledges, the ſweeteſt Embracements of thy Love.

O The unmerited, the diſtinguiſhing Goodneſs of the Great and Holy God of Heaven and Earth, in making me a reaſonable Creature, his Servant, his Son; in providing ſo plentifully for my Body, and my Soul; temporal and ſpiritual Bread to eat, and Rayment to put on! in giving me an *Heart* in any meaſure to diſcharge my Duty unto thee, whilſt others are neglecting

ing thee, or expreſſing their Enmity againſt thee. Innumerable are thy Creatures, that cannot take notice of thy Benefits: yea, how great a part of *Mankind*, made at firſt after thine Image, live and die in Darkneſs, and periſh for want of Viſion? That cannot or will not enjoy *theſe* happy Opportunities? are unavoidably kept from them, or wilfully, ſinfully ſeparate and exclude themſelves? How few of thoſe that draw near to thee, ſincerely wait upon thee, faithfully ſerve thee, are graciouſly accepted by thee? With what an unvaluable Price haſt thou redeemed a worthleſs Sinner, that deſerved thy eternal Vengeance? With how precious a Feaſt entertaineſt thou *me*, that deſerve to be caſt out with the Workers of Iniquity into the ever-flaming Pit; in that I have been ſo careleſs of ſerving thee, ſo wilfully offended thee, ſo often preferred things diſpleaſing unto thee, before thee; and provoked thee to call back thy Goodneſs and Mercy from me?

HOW dearly haſt thou purchaſed my Love? how ſtrangely haſt thou deſerved, and ſought it? Oh, what ſhall I ſay unto thee? or do, or ſuffer for thee? which way ſhall I expreſs my Gratitude towards thee? Oh, what an Addition an anſwerable Heart would be to thy Love, and Mercy, and Invitation? Make, O make ſuch deep and laſting Impreſſions upon my Soul, of thy Care, and Kindneſs, and Condeſcenſion towards me, that I may always affectionately remember thee, faithfully ſerve thee, never offend thee, eternally enjoy thee.

O That I could love thee as much as I ſhould, as I would, as I ſhall love thee, when I ſhall do nothing elſe but praiſe thee, and ſerve thee, and love thee, without ever offending thee, or doubting of thy Love unto me. In the mean time, O that it may be the delight of my Soul to think of thee, and thy loving-kindneſs; to reverence and worſhip thee, to pray unto thee, and praiſe thee, to wait upon thee in thine Ordinances

at thy Table, to be ordered and guided by thee.

I Offer up unto thee my Soul and Body, all I am and have, to be ruled and disposed of by thee. O that I may be full of Zeal to follow thee, and rejoice in being loved of thee, and humbly confide in thee, and absolutely resign my self unto thee, and be filled with constant Devotion towards thee, and earnest breathings after thee.

O Father of everlasting Compassion, forsake not in this Wilderness a feeble *Israelite*, whom thou hast brought thus far out of *Egypt*: and let not *the Soul* thou hast blessed with some Desires, and helped thus far with some Tendency towards eternal Happiness, ever faint or fall from the right way. Let not mine Infirmities deprive me of the benefit and comfort of *this Ordinance*; of the happy Effects of my Redeemer's Passion, Pardon and Peace, Grace and Relief, Courage and Strength, Support and Protection in the whole course of *my Life*, and eternal Happiness in *that* which is to come.

O Son of God, and Life of thoſe that believe; quench not, but cheriſh and inflame the ſmoaking Flax; break not, but ſupport and ſtrengthen the bruiſed Reed. Feed with thy Divine Influences this tender Branch, this weak Member of thine, which without thee cannot but wither, cannot but die, cannot but periſh. Deſpiſe not the ſlender beginnings of Grace in me, but carry it on with thy Power, until thou haſt made me meet for the Inheritance of the Saints in Life.

O Bleſſed Spirit of all Grace, cleanſe me from all my Sins; keep, and ſet forward in me (notwithſtanding all my Infirmities) thine own Work, and carry it on unto Perfection. Seal up unto me the Covenant of Pardon, which is ſealed and delivered to me in this Ordinance.

FILL our Hearts (moſt gracious God) with Love and Kindneſs towards one another; Let there be no Strife or Difference between *us*, or *any* of *thy People*, for *we* are *Brethren*. Supply all the Neceſſities of our Souls

and

and Bodies: provide for us, as thou knoweſt beſt for us. Let us be ſtill fully ſatisfied, and delighted, under all thy Diſpenſations towards us; and let all be in Love and Mercy unto us. Mortifie all our inordinate Affections and Deſires: Draw thine Image more and more lively upon our Souls. Let our chiefeſt Pleaſure conſiſt in ſerving and pleaſing of thee. Let nothing diſturb or diſpleaſe us, but thy Diſhonour.

Send thy Goſpel where it is not preached; continue it, and make it very ſucceſsful where it is: Let all who enjoy it, walk worthy of it, and let them be taken care of, preſerved and defended by thee.

Forgive unto us, whatever thou haſt ſeen amiſs in us: what is *ours*, graciouſly pardon; what is *thine own*, graciouſly accept. Bleſs *This Ordinance* thou haſt ordained for thy Church; accompany *it* with the Influences of that Spirit which thou haſt promiſed to pour upon all Fleſh; that thereby the World, thy Church,

our Souls and Bodies may glorifie thee now and ever, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

A Thanksgiving and Prayer at Home, After the Sacrament.

I Adore and magnifie thee (most gracious God, and merciful Father) for what thou art in thy self, and unto all thy Creatures; for thy infinite *Wisdom*, *Power* and *Goodness*, and for any Discoveries of the same, in and by thy *Word* and *Works*; that thou hast so wonderfully *made*, so plentifully *provided for* every *Creature*, especially *Man*, their Lord, thy Image and Glory. But how can we sufficiently admire thy inexpressible Condescension and Love, in taking notice of *us* (except to punish *us*) in becoming so nigh unto *us*, when we lay in our Blood, and had made our selves worse than the Beasts that perish? and do'st thou open thine Eye upon *such an one*? and bringest me into Fellowship

ſhip with thee? Is it pleaſing to thee, to look upon abominable, filthy Man? or gain unto thee, to ſerve me? to give thy ſelf to, and for me? to purchaſe ſuch a clod of Earth and Sin, with thy own Blood? Oh, when I conſider the *Rock* whence I was hewen, and *that* on which thou haſt ſet me; from what I was fallen, and to what thou haſt exalted me; where I had been, and where I ſhall be; I am amazed at thy Love, I am confounded at my Ingratitude! What ſhall I return unto *thee* (who humbleſt thy ſelf to behold the things that are in Heaven and Earth) for the innumerable Inſtances of thy peculiar Care, and ſpecial Love; for chuſing me out of the *World*, that I might not be condemned with *it*; for making a Child of Wrath, the Object of thy Love; for *opening* to me a *door of Mercy*, whilſt I was ſhutting it againſt my ſelf; thinking towards me *Thoughts* of Peace, whilſt *mine* were only evil, and enmity againſt thee; for ſo many occaſions and opportunities

ties of praiſing thee, and that I have not ſinned away all, into an Incapacity of praiſing thee; for ſtriking a Conjugal Covenant with me, whoſe Perſon is Uglineſs and Deformity, whoſe Parentage Baſe and Deſpicable, whoſe Portion nothing but Diſeaſes and Miſery; for feeding me this day with thy Word and Sacrament, with thy own Fleſh and Blood; who might'ſt long ago have ſhook off the hand of thy Providence ſuch a Viper as I am into Fire unquenchable, and made me there ſadly experience what it is to abuſe Grace by the loſs of Glory, for any Heart, Endeavours, or Aſſiſtance, any ſigns of thy Acceptance, any livelineſs of Affection in *commemorating* the all-ſufficient Sacrifice of my ever-prevailing Mediatour, inſtead of being made a Sacrifice to thy Juſtice for ever and ever: that I have been pledging thee in a Cup of Love, while others drink the Dregs of thy Diſpleaſure; in any meaſure diſcharging my Duty, whilſt others are ſuffering the inſupportable Puniſh-

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ment of their Neglects: that thou haſt aſſured me of Forgiveneſs, and all other Benefits purchaſed by thy Paſſion, while ſo many Millions are ſealed up under Wrath, in the Priſon of thy Fury; Not unto me (O Lord) not unto me, but unto thy Name be the Praiſe. O my God, to theſe and all thy *Mercies*, deny not *this*, a thankful Heart for all thy Mercies, and Grace to make them Incentives to more cheerful and ſincere Obedience. Mind me always of, and enable me faithfully to perform the *Vows* and *Promiſes* now upon me; confirm and ſtrengthem *them*, that *they* may ſtand as faſt as thy everlaſting Covenant. Let me not falſifie with thee, nor depart from thee, or defile that place thou haſt choſen for thy *Temple*; but dedicate it wholly to thee. Let the Fruit of the *Ordinance* be found to the praiſe of thy Grace, the Support and Encouragement, Comfort and Advantage of my own Soul. Let me always remember thee, and my Duty unto thee: let nothing ſeparate me

from the Love of thee; let me rather die, than deny or diſhonour thee. Make me ſenſible how much my Saviour loved me, by his ardent deſire to be an Offering for me, and remembred by me. Let me not ſpare *my darling Sins* for *thy ſake*, who ſpared'ſt not thy *Beloved Son* for *mine*. Let me always look upon *that* with Horrour and Hatred, which procured to *him* ſo much Ignominy and Torment. Let not thoſe *Luſts* pleaſe and delight my Fancy, which were Nails and Thorns in his Hands and Side. Seeing I now *profeſs* to *abide in him*, enable me *to walk even as he walked*, in Lowlineſs and Humility, Meekneſs and Patience, Contempt of the World, Heavenlineſs, and Zeal for thy Glory, Temperance and Moderation, Tenderneſs and Compaſſion, Love and Charity, Innocency and Uſefulneſs, Obedience, Reſignation and Submiſſion to thee. Meaſure not my Services by the exactneſs of my Performances, but Sincerity of my Deſires. *Charge not upon me* my Unpreparedneſs for,

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Unaffectedneſs, Wandrings, Unbelief, at *that ſolemn Ordinance*, this Day's Iniquity of my holy things, but *upon our Great High-Prieſt*, who offered up himſelf to bear our Sins.

And, O that *we* who have now been *celebrating his Love* and *Paſſion*, may with all thy People *love one another* as *he* hath *loved us*; have Strength to reſiſt, and overcome; Conſtancy to ſuffer, and perſevere; may breath earneſtly after thee, be pardoned and accepted, ſupplied, owned, bleſſed by thee, keep cloſe unto thee, and reign with thee to all Eternity, through our Ever-bleſſed *Redeemer*, who was delivered for our Offences, and raiſed again for our Juſtification; in whoſe Holy Name and Words, I further pray unto thee, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

FINIS.

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